



FLYING BUTTRESSES, NOTRE DAME, PARIS.

came back once more, and the Christian architecture of the earlier centuries perished.

It must not be imagined, however, that Gothic art concerned itself only with church building. There are beautiful Gothic palaces and houses left in Europe, such as the Ducal Palace at Venice and many public buildings in France and Belgium, which show that the masters of the style could adapt their art to any purpose. Nor is the use of the pointed arch, or even of the arch, a sure test of Gothic building. When it suited his purpose the Gothic architect could use the lintel, and the lintel alone, in a way that was characteristic of his age and full of beauty.

IV.

RENAISSANCE ARCHITECTURE.

In the age of Constantine, Christians were destroying pictures of the Greek and Roman gods. In the age of Columbus, Raphael and Correggio were painting new pictures of Greek gods and goddesses at the order of pope and abbe. Painting grew rapidly toward perfection, but the method of architecture had largely changed from growth to imitation.

The same year that America was discovered, Alexander Borgia

became pope. He was a man of evil life, who is supposed to have died of poison which he had intended for one of his guests. For a long time after, while the Reformation was beginning in Germany, Rome was a thoroughly pagan city. The popes lived splendidly, and lavished money upon art. Michael Angelo and Raphael were painting and building, but the work they did had cut loose from

the older methods, and was done in quite a different spirit.

This is the turning-point of the movement in art, which is called the New Birth, or Renaissance. It had already shown itself in the architecture of Italy, but in the time of the pagan popes it became the fashion. The Christian, and especially the Gothic, building fell into contempt, and the ruins of old Rome became the models of a new and sumptuous style. A Latin book on architecture, by a Roman engineer of the time of Augustus, named Vitruvius, was found, and its rules were studied as a sort of infallible guide for architects. To the confused and often misunderstood rules of this old volume, and to the ruins of ancient Roman



GOTHIC INTERIOR.